



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

(Ref: ARA/N21/4)

Note of the nineteenth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 20 April 2026 at 11am - Boardroom, Agri-Food Regulator's Office, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, W23 X3P

In attendance

Board of the Agri-Food Regulator:

- Joe Healy, Chair
- Paul Brophy
- Karen Brosnan
- John Comer
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohue
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

Agri-Food Regulator:

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO
- Lisa Evers (Secretary)

Introduction to the Board:

- Joanna McBride - external ARC member (Item 5)

Item 1: Opening by Chair

Item 2: Conflict(s) of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes of last Board Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 20 February 2025 were approved subject to a slight change in the wording of a point under AOB (Item 12).

Grace McCullen noted that the Regulator was not mentioned in the Department's Annual Outlook publication for 2025 and was wondering why. It was agreed that the Chair would raise the matter with the Department at the governance meeting scheduled in May.



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

Item 4: Approval of Board meeting notes for publishing

The Board approved the notes of the Board meeting on 9 December 2025 for publication.

Item 5: Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

Ms Joanna McBride attended for this item.

The Chair welcomed Ms McBride and thanked her for the service and support to the ARC.

Ms McBride said she was delighted to assist and put forward suggestions on how the ARC can assist the Regulator with financial management and governance goals in the context of the current Strategy Statement and also the upcoming 2027-2029 Strategy Statement currently in development.

There was a discussion as to the high-level content of the new strategy and a comparison and lessons learned from developing the current strategy.

Ms McBride departed the meeting at 3pm.

Item 6: Item 6: Corporate Procurement Plan (CPP)

The Corporate Procurement Plan (2025-2027) was reviewed and presented to the Board for approval to publish.

In particular, it was noted that a procurement consultancy service has been procured to both access expertise in the area and to help manage the workload in the context that a number of procurements have been identified as necessary. The procurement of ICT related expertise and infrastructure was noted.

Item 7: 2025 Annual Report



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

A draft copy of the Annual Report for 2025 was presented to the Board for observations prior to the meeting. The CEO advised that the document was a work in progress and considered it a useful juncture to gain feedback from the Board in advance of the document being designed.

Item 8: Unfair Trading Practices

The Board were provided with an update on prosecutions proceeding against a business. A hearing date of 11 June has been agreed in the District Court.

Approval was sought from the Board to issue court proceedings if alleged breach of unfair trading law is not brought to an end following compliance notices in relation to two additional complaints.

The Board approved the action for both complaints.

Item 9: CEO Update

The CEO provided a written update to the Board prior to the meeting.

Item 11: For Noting

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics reports for February and March 2026 were noted.

There was a brief discussion on how the findings of the 2026 supplier to retail/wholesale survey may be launched and promoted.

Item 12: AOB

Board members agreed that it would be worthwhile subscribing to either the Institute of Public Administration or the Institute of Directors Ireland in terms of supporting their work for the Agri-Food Regulator.



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

The next Board meeting will take place on 8 June 2026.